Turning Point ch1

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高永ひなこ

ターニングポイント

TURNING POINT

Dariaコミックス Frontier works

ターニングポイント

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Frontier Works

DARIA COMICS

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＊桜木圭吾は、旅先でヒッチハイクをしていた大学生・今村敏喜と出会う。脚本家として行き詰っていた桜木は現実から逃れたい一心で、誘われるままに今村と寝てしまう。だが翌朝正気に返った桜木は今村が目覚める前に姿を消す。しかし何気ない一言で今村に探し当てられた桜木は、忘れられなかったと純粋で熱心なアプローチをされ――。
＊その後の描き下ろしあり!!

DARIA COMICS

✻ダリアコミックス✻
大好評発売中!

LOVE ROUND!!

ターニングポイント

hinako takanaga

高永ひなこ

生年月日　●5月16日生まれ
星●　●乙女●
血液型　●O型
出身　在住●愛知県出身

この本が出る頃には引っ●しをして、●面人になってるハズ！　●生活が楽しみです～。ちょろ（●い●ど）も早く●れてくれますように　！

book design ..... Junko Watanabe
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ターニングポイント

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tap
tap
tap
tap
Why did it turn out like that ?
Even now I still don't really know
except probably
.....
at that time I wanted to do something that was completely different from my normal self
ターニングポイント
Turning point (first part)

In other words, I was
someone else.
ターニングポイント
Turning point (first part)

A few weeks ago,
HMM ..?
WHAT'S THAT?
vroom
Please stop!
screech
sigh
Ah...
thank god!
I'm in luck!

Normally,
I'd never stick my head into anything troublesome.
but, somehow,
Forced to fit
shut
THE CHAIN ON MY BICYCLE BROKE
AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE BASIC TOOLS I HAVE WITH ME.
AND NOT MANY CARS DRIVE BY HERE
REALLY, THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME~!
IT'S OKAY
WE'RE HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION
YOU A STUDENT?
pretending to be nice.
It was odd for me,

I'M SAKURAGI
SAKURAGI KEIGO
I'M ON HOLIDAY.
YES, BUT I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM IT RIGHT NOW
MY NAME IS IMAMURA TOSHIKI
MISTER, ARE YOU WORKING AT THE MOMENT?
SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE IT EASY FOR A WEEK
YOU'RE ON LEAVE FROM SCHOOL?
WELL... I WANT SOME TIME...
TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT MY FUTURE...
I SEE
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE RIDING A BICYCLE?
AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD TRAVEL AROUND JAPAN AND EXPAND MY HORIZONS...

HOW NICE.
TAKING TIME OFF TO FIND ONESELF IS A PRIVILEGE OF A STUDENT
HOW ABOUT YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A BUSINESS MAN...
WHAT DO YOU DO?
WELL,
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
VROOM
Huh
!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IS IT A QUIZ?
You're even more mischievous than you look!
Not that
it was the kind of job I needed to hide from others
I just didn't want to think about it right then.
Nakano Cycle
WHAT?
IS THAT SO...?

?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NO... WELL...
THE DAMAGE WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT, AND HE SAID FIXING WILL TAKE AROUND 2-3 DAYS.
They need to send for replacement parts!
Ha ha ha
AH WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT SINCE I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO GO ANYWHERE ANYWAY
That's too bad.
HMMM
AH... BUT THE EXTRA EXPENSE IS GONNA HURT..
The reason I did something
that I normally would never do
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE STAYING YET?
AH... I'LL LOOK FOR A YOUTH HOSTEL OR SOMETHING

is probably
Is it really all right?
Smirk
HUH!?
EH— BUT..
YOU WANNA COME STAY AT MY PLACE?
because I wanted to separate myself from my normal life.
Whoa! What a nice room!
It looks expensive..
Woahhh!
IT'S NOT THAT EXPENSIVE
SINCE IT'S OFF-SEASON RIGHT NOW.
LET'S TAKE A BATH BEFORE WE EAT.
MM
!!

AH... this feels so good!
Sigh
Sigh
I'M KINDA GETTING SCARED NOW...
HUH?
I MEAN,
SAKURAGI-SAN, YOU WON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING

...!
And yet you're so nice to me...
even though we hardly know each other...
now I'm trying to figure out why...!!
I'm probably gonna be sold to overseas~!
Splash
IS THIS WHAT YOU SAY TO MY KINDNESS!?
I'm scared!!
THIS IS NOT SOME CHEESY MYSTERY STORY!
NOT THAT...
HUH?
I'M TRYING TO HIDE IT OR ANYTHING
IT'S JUST.. TROUBLE-SOME...

I MAINLY WORK AS A PLAYWRIGHT
BUT I DON'T MAKE ENOUGH WITH THAT ALONE SO I TAKE ON OTHER WRITING PROJECTS.
WELL... KINDA LIKE A FREELANCE WRITER
WOW, SO YOU'RE A WRITER?
THAT'S SO COOL
THERE'S NOTHING COOL ABOUT IT UNLESS MY STORIES SELL WELL.
AND THEY DON'T
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO IF YOU DON'T HAVE TALENT! I REALLY ADMIRE THAT
SEE?
I KNEW THE CONVERSATION WAS GONNA GO THIS WAY
HUH?
THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL SAY NEXT

"WHEN IS YOUR NEXT SHOW?"
"I'LL DEFINITELY GO AND SEE IT."
"HAVE YOU EVER MET ANY CELEBRITIES?"
"HOW NICE, YOU GET TO PURSUE A CAREER THAT FOLLOWS YOUR PASSION."
"WHAT KIND OF STORIES DO YOU WRITE?"
AS IF YOU'D REALLY COME
chuckle
shock
halt

AH... SORRY
I DIDN'T MEAN...
NO,
I...
SKRRT
SORRY
I'LL GET OUT FIRST
SAKURAGI-SAN
SEE YOU LATER
...!
drip

YEAH
SEE YA
TAKE YOUR TIME AND SOAK UNTIL YOU'RE ALL WARMED UP
bubble
WHOA! AMAZING!
THIS LOOKS SO YUMMY!
What the hell is all this?
Is it all right? Can I really eat this? Is it really, really all right?
WELL... IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU'RE SO HAPPY...
IT MAKES TREATING YOU WORTH IT...

*T/N: "I'd like to start the meal!
Itadakimasu!
Haha
clank
YUMMM
I'll definitely repay you when I become successful! I will never forget your kindness for offering me such great food!!
It's okay, don't worry about it
You look so happy eating Imamura kun
UMM...
ABOUT JUST NOW...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I SAID SOMETHING INSENSITIVE ...
NO, THAT'S ...
I WAS JUST BEING TOO TENSE
Forget about it
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
WHAT YOU SAID WAS EVERYTHING I WAS GOING TO ASK...
I think I really have no originality
chuckle

YE
YES! I'M AN HONEST GUY!
Ah he's laughing?
SO WHEN I SAID I'D GO SEE YOUR SHOW, I REALLY WILL!
HAHAHA,
YOU SURE ARE HONEST
REALLY, DON'T THINK I'M LIKE OTHER GUYS
I'M A MAN OF ACTION!
WELL, MOST PEOPLE DO MEAN IT AT THE TIME WHEN THEY SAY THOSE THINGS
Definite-ly?
YEAH, YEAH, DEFINITELY
chuckle chuckle
OKAY, OKAY I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN MY NEXT SHOW'S COMING OUT

I wondered why.
It seemed like
But yeah,
from the way I see it, just the fact that there's something you want to do in life
is already an accomplishment.
You think?
I was strangely
enjoying myself
Why do you think I'm wringing money out from nowhere,
trying to continue my journey to discover the purpose of my life?
A feeling that I had lost
for a long time...
WILL YOU— FIND YOUR TRUE PURPOSE ..?
SO IF YOU GO ON WITH YOUR JOURNEY IMAMURA-KUN...
WELL, WELL, I HAVEN'T YET...
That's why I'm still in the middle of my journey!
BUT A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED ON MY WAY!
In this case
For example...

The couple just happened to be behind...
And then, that time...
For real?
maybe finally...
I can sleep...
until morning ?
...SAKURAGI-SAN.
SAKURAGI-SAN.

OH.
SO SAKURAGI-SAN CAN'T REALLY HANDLE HIS ALCOHOL
Aha♪
Cover
AH... CRAP.
I'M... SERIOUSLY...
...
open
GO COOL MY HEAD DOWN...
LET ME...

SLAM
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO USE MY SCRIPT!!?
THAT'S WHAT THE SPONSOR WANTS! I CAN'T HELP IT!
AND DO THIS TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS!!?

KEIGO... DON'T YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU CAN SETTLE DOWN WITH...?
IF YOU DON'T GET A STABLE JOB, IT'S HARD TO...
I'm sorry
I'm sorry, mom
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS, THEN WRITE SOMETHING THAT SELLS!
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL WRITING?
YOU SURE ARE DETERMINED. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO GO ON LIKE THIS?
Shut up
I don't need to hear from someone who has given up on his own dream so easily. Stop bothering me

WHAT-? ISN'T IT NICE? I THINK PEOPLE WHO DON'T GIVE UP ON THEIR DREAMS ARE AWESOME!
YOUR SCRIPT IS GOOD, BUT YOU'RE PLAYING IT TOO SAFE.
THERE IS NO IMPACT.
YOU'LL GET THERE AS LONG AS YOU WORK
Shut up.
Shut up.
Stop saying whatever you want!
The reviewers speak as though they know what they're talking about
Yeah, I know, it's cos it's someone else's problem, after all.
...SAN.
...SAKURAGI-SAN?
flinch
SAKURAGI-SAN!

AH...
ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
YOU HAD A NIGHTMARE...
DID I... SAY SOMETHING...?
EH,
AH.
WELL...

I KEEP DREAMING OF ALL THE BAD THINGS ABOUT MY WORK
SAKURAGI-SAN
HOW, EMBARRASSING
He really is honest
IT REPLAYS OVER AND OVER
LATELY I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP PROPERLY ANYMORE
SAKU
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD FINALLY SLEEP TONIGHT

SAKURAGI-SAN...
SAKURAGI-SAN...
YOU REALLY LIKE YOUR JOB, DON'T YOU?
?
HUH?
ARE YOU BEING SARCAS-TIC?
TOO MUCH
OPTIMISM IS NOTHING BUT INSOLENCE.
THINGS DON'T WORK OUT SO EASILY WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT!!
BUT,
IF IT'S SO HARD ON YOU, YOU COULD'VE JUST QUIT...

REALLY?
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT IS, YOU STILL PURSUE IT...
IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'RE IN LOVE
ACTUALLY, I ENVY YOU FOR THAT.
...DON'T SPEAK LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...
SO YOU...
CALL THIS LOVE...?

IN THAT CASE, MY LOVE
IS THE WORST KIND OF UNREQUITED LOVE.
IT WILL NEVER, EVER
BEAR ANY FRUIT.
SAKU-RAGI-SAN
I WANT TO QUIT.
I WANT TO QUIT.. AND JUST LET IT GO.
Ugh
I WANT TO GIVE UP.
WHY AM I.. STILL...
huddle
SAKU-RAGI-SAN !!

hug
...HUH?
WHAT
...
Startle

...ARE YOU...
...ARE YOU GAY?
EH,
LIM...
.....
blush
AH...
I'M SORRY
.....
Why was I....
able to do such things that time?

SAKU-RAGI-SA
.....
.....I WANT TO SLEEP.
WILL THIS HELP ME SLEEP?
SA....
SAKU-RAGI-SAN
In any case, I....

I wanted to
become a completely different me
AH!
AH.
HAH!
HA...
slide
rub
rub
rub
pinch
UGH ...!

...!
Pant
Clinch
SAKU-RAGI-SAN...
HMM...
...FUU
Pant
Squish
Squish
Punch
SAKU-RAGI-SAN...
FU
Hah
...HUH...?
HAVE YOU EVER DONE THIS...
WITH A MAN...?

STOP ASKING...
SUCH NON-SENSE
pant
pant
WHY...?
pant
WELL I...
I WAS ONLY GOING TO MAKE BOTH OF US COME BUT
I CAN'T HOLD BACK...
.....
RIGHT
IF THIS OVER-WHELM-INGLY EXTRA-ORDINARY DAY
JUST DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT TO DO...
COULD JUST BLOW EVERYTHING APART
AND RETURN IT ALL BACK TO THE BEGINN-ING...
UNTIL I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT...
SAKU-RAGI-SAN...
THAT WILL BE PERFECT
ぬぷ

I want to sleep.
I wanted it to make me stop thinking about everything.

Turning Point first part ✱**END**

Turning Point ch2

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I woke up to the sunlight streaming through the paper screen
and realized I had been able to sleep like a log until morning
My head was completely clear,
which was probably why
the sense of reality came rushing back at me all at once—

ターニングポイント(後編)

Turning point (second part)

ターニングポイント 後編

Turning point (second part)

Thank you for your hard work!
Great job on the opening night!
MIZUMORI-SAN, YOU WERE GREAT AS THE HEROINE!
It was really intense
I cried at the ending scene..!
Thank you very much!
Keep up the good work until the last day!
THE AUDIENCE RESPOND-ED WELL,
AND THE SCRIPT WAS WELL RECEIVED TOO.
REALLY
THAT'S NICE
SAKU-RAGI-SAN!
Is that all?
What?

WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AT THE RECEPTION DESK
SEE ME?
Sakuragi-san...!!
...!

I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!
THESE PAST 3 MONTHS...
I KEPT ASKING THE HOTEL STAFF, BUT THEY WOULDN'T TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS...
It's personal information
OF COURSE, THEY WOULDN'T...
SO AS THE LAST STRAW, I ASKED THEM TO SEND YOU A MESSAGE WITH MY CONTACT DETAILS...
DID YOU GET IT?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I BELIEVE THEY DID FAX ME OR SOMETHING...
turn
IF THAT'S SO, THEN WHY...?

WHY?
THAT'S MY LINE...
I DIDN'T CALL YOU BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO
IT'S A NUISANCE THAT YOU SUDDENLY CAME HERE LIKE THAT...
...!
AH...
WELL...
BUT...
I...
PROMISED YOU, RIGHT...?
THAT I'LL DEFINITELY COME SEE YOUR SHOW
RIGHT.

SO YOU REALLY CAME, HUH...
IT WAS GOOD
IT WAS REALLY GOOD...!!
THAT'S NICE TO KNOW, THANKS.
THIS... IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A THEATRE ACT,
BUT THE LAST PART REALLY CAUGHT HOLD OF MY HEART...
UM...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT PROPERLY...
BUT REALLY... I DON'T MEAN IT JUST AS FLATTERY...
...
NO...
I REALLY AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT I MEAN IT.
REALLY
THANK YOU
SAKU...
SAKURAGI...!

Thank you for the hard work!
OH... SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR CONVERSATION
WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
AH...
I'M IMAMURA.
OH, AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
HE CAME TO SEE OUR FIRST SHOW TODAY.
WHAT IS IT?
IT doubles as a review meeting, as well.
A DRINKING PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE
YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT?
HUH
AND YOU, TOO, IF YOU'D LIKE!
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO GO?
HEY, EN-DOU
OF COURSE, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
!
SORRY, BUT... I'LL PASS.
I SEE... OH... THAT'S A SHAME.
I'M BUSY WORKING ON SOMETHING ELSE RIGHT NOW...

WELL THEN, IMAMURA-SAN. PLEASE JOIN US ANYWAY!
HUH?
AH, LIM.
WE'RE MEETING UP IN THE LOBBY AT NINE
BYE!
SEE YOU THERE!
flutter
AH! WAIT!
WAIT A SEC, SAKURAGI-SAN
I'm your host
PLEASE, WAIT!
grab
LIM.
SINCE THEN ARE YOU
ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY ?
WHAT ...?

I'VE BEEN
WORRIED ABOUT YOU THIS WHOLE TIME
Hitch
LE...
LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
Jerk
AH...
I...
SEE...
YOU'RE RIGHT

THAT MORNING...
YOU DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A WORD...
AND I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU...
SO I THOUGHT...
THAT IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BETTER... TO FORGET ABOUT IT ALL...
BUT...
I CAN'T FORGET
NO MATTER WHAT I DO
CLUTCH
...!!

IMA-MURA-KU...
I WANTED TO AT LEAST
TALK TO YOU AGAIN, JUST ONCE MORE SO I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO SEARCH FOR YOU
BUT IS THIS.
NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE TO YOU ..?
SAKU-RAGI-SAN, DO YOU

REGRET
WHAT WE DID THAT DAY?
...!
BACK THEN,
I WASN'T MYSELF...
EH...?
I WAS UNDER A LOT OF STRESS THEN,
Ah, again, why
am I...
WHICH WAS EXACTLY WHY I TOOK A BREAK...
MY HEAD WAS A MESS...
SO I'M
SORRY FOR LASHING OUT AT YOU, WHEN YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

I'm giving away too much.
TO ME, MY BEHAVIOR WAS NOTHING SHORT OF DISGRACEFUL...
IT'S SOMETHING...
BUT...!
I'D RATHER NOT REMEMBER...
SO PLEASE, FORGET IT TOO.
Is it because it's him...?
No, it can't be
THERE WAS NOTHING SHAMEFUL ABOUT IT...
PLEASE, WAIT!
LET'S TALK IT OVER...
SAKURAGI-SAN!
Just one line...
SAKURAGI-SAN!!

It's a bother.."
That would've ended it all, but yet—
ring
ring
YES, SAKURAGI SPEAKING.
YEAH, ENDOU.
Sorry about the party the other day.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ARE YOU COMING TO THE LAST PERFORMANCE?
bustle
bustle
Yeah, probably
OH, BY THE WAY...

kya kya
WELL, HE COMES TO SEE THE SHOW PRETTY MUCH EVERY OTHER DAY.
AND HE'S BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE WHOLE CAST.
You know that student who was with you the other day?
Imamura-kun. I mean
YEAH
WHAT ABOUT HIM...?
EA?
SERIOUSLY..?
Yeah, seriously
Apparently he's become your fan.
MY FAN...?
Hahaha
He keeps asking when you're going to come. It's annoying.
...She said my shows because he's my fan...
Or because he has other motives...?
Why don't you just show up?

AH...!
Anyway, youre coming to the last performance, right?
Gimme a break
Im not good at dealing with people like him...
WAIT ...!
I'll tell him that. Bye~!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT. HE'S A GOOD GUY.
AND YOU SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR FANS
beep
beep...
WH...T THE HELL!
IS HE A STALKER OR SOMETHING!?
"ARE YOU ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY?"
...

Even though it's not the same kind of deep, profound sleep like that night...
OF COURSE I CAN
カラオケ
OH, SAKURAGI!
OVER HERE!
...
Ah
beam

I THINK THE REASON WHY THE HEROINE'S ACTIONS IN THE LAST SCENE MADE SUCH AN IMPACT...
AND YET STILL,
WAS BECAUSE, UNTIL THAT PART OF THE STORY, WE HADN'T BEEN TOO INVOLVED IN HER POINT OF VIEW
THE AUDIENCE HAD BEEN VERY SKILLFULLY SITUATED AT A DISTANCE FROM HER PERSPECTIVE!
THAT'S TRUE...
YOU CAN SAY THAT, IN A WAY...
Ugh...
HE REALLY HAS BECOME PART OF THE GROUP...
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THE "COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY" OF HIS SCRIPTS IS ONE OF HIS SELLING POINTS...
Excuse me! I'd like to make an order!
THAT SORT OF INDIFFERENCE IS WELL RECEIVED AMONG EXPERTS, AND IT WORKED REALLY WELL WITH THE HEROINE THIS TIME...
BUT IF ONLY HE WERE ABLE TO WRITE STORIES BASED MORE ON THE PROTAGONIST'S POINT OF VIEW...
THEN HIS WORK WOULD HAVE MORE MASS APPEAL!!
STOP IT

I, TOO, THINK THAT WORKS SHOWING THE RAW SIDE OF HUMAN EMOTIONS WOULD BE INTERESTING.
BUT THAT ALOOF STYLE OF WRITING IS VERY SAKURAGI-SAN, AND I THINK IT'S TOTALLY AWESOME.
I REALLY LIKE IT.
...
Well I guess you're right.
He's just an amateur
but he's oddly hit the mark.
Coffee
VIDEO BOOKS
SAKURAGI-SAN.
SAKURAGI-SAN.
WHAT?
Open
Oh
CIGARETTE
AH... I see
They didn't sell this brand inside

I DRANK A LITTLE TOO MUCH...
SO I THOUGHT I'D GO TO THE PARK TO CLEAR MY HEAD. THAT'S ALL
You don't have to make that face.
I WAS KIDDING.
shock
I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT WITHOUT WARNING AGAIN.
THANK GOD
...I WAS THINKING OF DOING THAT
AH, WELL, THEN, I'LL ALSO...
stare
huff
AH... I'D BE DISTURBING YOU RIGHT?
...
IT'S OKAY.
I guess you win
chuckle
!

YES?
IMAMURA-KUN, YOU'RE...
MORE OF A CRITIC THAN I THOUGHT.
AND YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP TOO.
HUH? OH, YOU MEAN JUST NOW...
I... SORTA... LET IT TAKE ME OVER... THAT WAS RUDE OF ME.
NO, I WAS IMPRESSED.
...SINCE YOU REALLY DID WATCH THE SHOW THOROUGHLY.
WELL...
BECAUSE I'VE SEEN IT MORE THAN TEN TIMES...
Ahaha
OH, YEAH, I HEARD ...
I'D THINK THE TICKETS WOULD BE QUITE AN EXPENSE FOR A STUDENT LIKE YOU.
Not that I don't appreciate it.

THAT'S BE-CAUSE
I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO UNDERSTAND YOU BETTER, SAKURAGI SAN.
This guy...
Why does he say embarrassing things like this so easily
HUH?
TAP
SO YOU HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES. I DON'T LIKE THAT.
turn away
SHOCK
THERE'S AN OUTDOOR ST GE HERE...
WOW... T A PLACE LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHOA.
THIS TAKES ME BACK.

DURING MY SCHOOL YEARS, I USED TO CHEAPLY RENT THIS SORT OF PLACE FOR OUR PERFORMANCES...
IT WAS NICE IN SUMMER. THE AIR WAS COOL...
TAKES YOU BACK?
AND A LOT OF PEOPLE USED TO COME...
REAL-LY...?
That's right. Back then,
I didn't have so much to worry about...
I only did what I wanted to do
without expecting anything in return
I just enjoyed writing
GASP
Saku-ragi-sa~n!
...

WAH-!
It feels kinda nice to be on stage!
THIS IS COOL!
MAYBE I SHOULD PICK UP THEATRICAL PERFOR-MANCE
THERE YOU GO AGAIN.
SAYING SUCH THINGS ON AN IMPULSE.
Uhh-?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACTING ON AN IMPULSE?
DOESN'T EVERYTHING START WITH AN IMPUL-SIVE IDEA ANYWAY?
DON'T QUIBBLE

I can probably act in a play written by Sakuragi-san and even play the protago-nist!!
That's how my dream expands!
STOP IT!
IF ONE DAY, I REALLY BECOME AN ACTOR.
I'VE BECOME INTERESTED IN ACTING ITSELF..
I REALLY MEAN IT! EVER SINCE I STARTED INTERACTING WITH THE CAST,
YOU'D DEFINITELY REGRET IT ONE DAY!!
IF YOU WERE TO DECIDE YOUR FUTURE BASED ON TAINTED REASONS LIKE THAT,
BESIDES, HOW ARE MY REASONS TAINTED ANYWAY!?
NO, I WOULDN'T!

I LOVE YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN!!
IF MY REASON IS JUST TO BECOME A BIT CLOSER TO THE PERSON I LOVE,
I DON'T THINK IT IS TAINTED AT ALL!
...!

I said hi!
Ugh.
JUMP
!
WHAT...
AN EMBARRASSING GUY YOU ARE...
!
I... I DON'T CARE!
IF I WORRY ABOUT BEING EMBARRASSING,
grab
!
I CAN'T SAY WHAT I REALLY THINK!

What I really think...
AREN'T YOU...
HUH?
AFRAID...? WHY...
CAN YOU SAY WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND SO EASILY LIKE THAT..?
SAKURAGI-SAN?
HONESTLY EXPRESSING MYSELF JUST AS I AM...
I THINK I USED TO KNOW THE FEELING...
WHY DID I START TO FORGET IT..?
COULD I BE RESTRICTING MYSELF FOR NO REASON...
CARING TOO MUCH ABOUT APPEARANCES AND COMMON SENSE..?
UM...
gasp

Ahh, here I go again.
AH
Why?
SO.. SORRY!
IT SEEMS... LIKE I
I didn't want this
SAY TOO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF WHEN I TALK TO YOU...
THESE ARE NOT THINGS YOU TELL PEOPLE.
It only makes me want to hide away
NO WAY ...!
I'm not supposed to expose what I really think.
HUH? WHY?
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I'm an idiot so I don't really understand.
MORE
...!
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF!

But yet, why...?
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...
I WANT TO
BACK THEN, YOU WERE UNDER A LOT OF STRESS, AND YOU WANTED TO LET IT LOOSE ON SOMEONE, RIGHT?
EVERYONE FEELS LIKE THAT SOMETIMES
I wonder why everything seems
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT DAY IN SUCH A WAY?
LIKE I SAID,
YOU STILL WANT ME TO EMBARRASS MYSELF FURTHER...?
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THE WORST OF ME

to be drawn out by him
AND I THANK GOD FOR THE CHANCE
THAT I WAS ABLE TO BE THAT "SOMEONE"
inexplicably
PLEASE, ANSWER ME TRUTHFULLY
ABOUT THAT DAY...
DO YOU REGRET IT...?
IS THAT WHY YOU DISAPPEARED...?
N...
NO...
...

I DON'T ...
REGRET IT...
All that I've been hiding
!
IT'S JUST THAT...
I WAS ASHAMED
is being dragged out.
FOR EXPOSING... MYSELF LIKE THAT...
TO SOMEONE ELSE
What should I do...?
SAKURAGI-SAN...
GRASP

What...
...!
ER,
...IS THIS BAD?
...
DO YOU DISLIKE THIS?

What should I do...?
I...
HUH?
NO...
I... DON'T ...MIND
...!
AH...
...

YOU—
DAMN IT...!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE ME...
SAY SUCH EMBARRASSING THINGS...!
AH BUT,
SINCE I YELLED OUT SOMETHING QUITE EMBARRASSING JUST NOW, TOO,
I didn't mind it...
That's right I don't... mind him.
Now we're even, right?
You said that voluntarily!
Yeah. Come to think of it
Sakuraji-san you're so shy ♡

I'm being dragged out
by his straightforwardness.
YOU SAID YOU WERE DIFFERENT PERSON THEN.
BUT I LIKE BOTH SAKURAGI-SANS.
THE COOL ONE AND THE ONE WHO'S SENSITIVE.
Erase it from your memory
Seriously
It's a way of living that I'd forgotten a long time ago...
Maybe I can try to remember it again...
BY THE WAY...
I said please forget that day
Am I right?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SEEN YOU LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
Like a

how to show more of my true self
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
SHOULD WE HAVE ANOTHER DRINK AT YOUR PLACE, SAKURAI-SAN?
Huh!? Why!?
And by doing that, I think
I might just be able to get out of that long tunnel.
Ah
No.. I..
I see.
oh..
just wanted to know your address..
You don't have to be so scared...
I didn't mean anything else...
Hmm okay then. I'll give you my email address for now
I don't know your address or your phone number not even your email address!
Just the email address!?
Turning Point second part END

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ターニングポイント
~second point~
Turning Point

Toshiki & Keigo

ring-
ring
ring-
ring
click
YES,
SAKURAGI SPEAKING
Ah!
Sakuragi-san!? It's me, Imamura!
OH, HEY.
Can I tell you something? Right now!!
HM?
I'll be there in, um.. twenty minutes
Wait up for me, okay!?
Ah... actually, I'll come over!
I want to tell you face to face...!
HUH? HANG ON.
HEY, HEY, DON'T JUST DECIDE...
IMAMURA...!
open

I got a named part in the next performance!!
HUH?
SAKURAGI-SAN!
!
I met Imamura when I was taking some time off work last summer
I was in a slump with my work as a playwright
and let myself get carried away by him
just the once
slide

After that, he became strangely attached to me
and started sticking to me like glue
YOU'LL CELEBRATE WITH ME, WON'T YOU? LET'S CELEBRATE!
OKAY, OKAY, CALM DOWN!
You're so annoying!
LISTEN
ABOUT IMAMURA...
HM?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT TOO EARLY FOR HIM...?
...OH,
YOU MEAN HIS NEW PART?

HE'S ONLY JUST STARTED THEATRE WORK..
AND HE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO IN TERMS OF ACTING SKILL
I'M JUST WONDERING IF THIS NEW PART'S A BIT TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO HANDLE...
What if he screws up?
HMM...
BUT YOU SAW HIS FIRST STAGE PERFORMANCE LAST MONTH, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH...
HE DIDN'T HAVE MANY LINES, BUT HE HAD A REAL PRESENCE ON THE STAGE...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S TALL, AND HE'S VERY FREE IN HIS MOVEMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS. IT REALLY SHOWS ON STAGE
I'D LIKE TO TRY BUILDING ON THAT
IF HE DOES WELL... HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM...
...
In truth...

I also...
felt that a little.
BUT I THOUGHT
THAT WAS JUST BECAUSE MY OPINION OF HIM
IS A BIT BIASED
WHY WOULD I BE BIASED?
WH-
What the hell? What am I saying?
OKAY, LET'S MOVE ON TO ACT TWO NEXT!

*intentionally blank
HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE
...
SAKURAGI-SAN!
HOW DID I DO..?
HM?
OH...
WELL, YOU HAD PLENTY OF ENTHUSI-ASM.
WHA-AAT?

SO I'M THINKING OF STARTING OVER AND ENROLLING AT DRAMA SCHOOL
IF YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING, YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT PROPERLY!
Can't you be a bit more, &know- constructive?
When we met, Imamura was a university student. But then he said...
...and just like that, he quit university
It's frightening to think what young people are capable of...
COULD YOU AT LEAST
GIVE ME SOME ADVICE OR SOME- THING...?
Um.
I GUESS.
...YOUR ACTING IS STILL A BIT SUPERFICIAL.
YOU HAVE TO TRY IMAGINING YOUR CHARACTER'S BACKGROUND...
LIKE WHAT HIS FAVOURITE FOOD IS, OR HIS TASTE IN DECORATING...
IT'S THE SAME WITH ANY HUMAN RELATIONSHIP RIGHT? IF YOU KNOW SOME ONE WELL
YOUR ACTING WILL NATURALLY GAIN MUCH MORE DEPTH.
Every- one went through that stage at some point
They aren't scared of anything.
so nothing stands between them and their desires

But unfortunately for me...
S... SAKURAGI-SAN.
HM?
TODAY...
that time has long since passed...
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I CAME ROUND TO YOUR PLACE...?
HM?
WHY?
Eh?
IF YOU DON'T MIND,
I'D REALLY LIKE SOME MORE OF YOUR ADVICE...

Even though he said things like that...
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
SAKURAGI-SAN!
I don't get it
ALL RIGHT.
FINE BY ME.
!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
bow
and did
things like that
...
What's going on in that head of his...?
SINCE THEN, IMAMURA

HASN'T
MADE A SINGLE MOVE ON ME.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S—
REALLY PLAYFUL AROUND ME.
!
IT'S NOT LIKE
NO, I MEAN, .
I ACTIVELY WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US.
IT'S JUST—.
What is this?

Why am I so restless...?
KIDS HIS AGE
CHANGE THEIR FEELINGS ALL TOO EASILY...
I feel like I'm being left behind...
ding-dong
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,
IT'LL BE FOR THE BEST...
There he is, looking all innocent...
Come in
Thank you
HN... OKAY.
NEXT.. YEAH, THIS BIT HERE.
*blink panel
TRY READING THIS LINE A BIT MORE ANGRILY THAN BEFORE.
OKAY
GOOD EVENING!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME COME OVER.

WHO...
He hasn't got stuck on a particular acting style,
so he instantly absorbs anything you teach him.
IF YOU'RE SO SURE SHE'S INNOCENT...
THEN YOU WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM SORTING OUT THE MESS AFTERWARDS, RIGHT?
HE'S GOT GOOD INSTINCTS, TOO..
Burning with passion
like molten iron that has yet to be moulded
WHAT A STRANGE FEELING
AM I...
ENVIOUS OF HIM...?

He can become anything he wants.
With all this potential, his future is so bright...
It's dazzling...

LET'S STOP HERE.
HUH?
AH, DID I... MESS UP JUST NOW?
NO. YOU WERE GOOD.

THIS ISN'T ONE OF MY SCRIPTS.
SO, HERE
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA TO RELY TOO MUCH ON MY INTERPRETATION OF IT
Take it
...!
IT'S JUST WELL, SEE...
BUT...
I DON'T MIND DOING IT IN YOUR STYLE...
YOU MAY NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT, BUT THE DIRECTOR WON'T STAND FOR IT
I CAN ONLY GET AWAY WITH IT WHEN I'M BROUGHT IN TO HELP FINE-TUNE PERFORMANCES
But I'm not involved in this one
OH...
I...

I REALLY WISH I COULD ACT IN A PLAY THAT YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN...
AH! OF COURSE, I REALISE...
THAT I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE I'M IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT, BUT STILL
YOU KNOW...
MY SCRIPTS REALLY AREN'T WORTH GETTING THAT OBSESSIVE ABOUT...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
I...
grip
!
THE REASON I STARTED THEATRE IN THE FIRST PLACE

IMA—
IMA-MURA—
THAT'S WHY I—
Hah.
IS BECAUSE I ADMIRE YOU—
AND BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET JUST A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TO YOU...!
Ah!
MOVE BACK!!!
—!
I... WANT TO HURRY UP AND BECOME A REAL ACTOR...
SOMEONE THAT YOU'D APPROVE OF...
...

Th
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I... UM...
This guy!
AND JUST WHEN IS THAT GOING TO BE?
HUH?
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE FOR YOU TO BECOME THIS GREAT ACTOR...?
clench
ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO...
LEAVING THINGS BETWEEN US HANGING IN THE BALANCE UNTIL THEN?
...!
...PRETTY CARELESS, AREN'T YOU?

GO HOME, YOU IDIOT.
Uwah!
Saku-ragi-san!
WAIT!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
I'M SORRY!
I JUST NEVER THOUGHT...
NOT IN MY WILDEST DREAMS, THAT YOU'D...
YOU KNOW I FEEL THE SAME...!
...
NH...

fumble
NH...!
NH
MHF
NNH!
I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY
TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL FOR YOU.
NOW IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING—
—HAH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO STOP BEING SO IMMATURE
AND BECOME MORE GROWN-UP LIKE YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN—
Nh
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THEATRE, THE MORE I REALISE
THAT YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING THAT FEELING..
KEPT GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER INSIDE ME
Hah.
Ahi
kiss
ALL THE GUYS AT THE THEATRE COMPANY HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, TOO.
Squeeze

I WAS SO SURE THAT YOU WOULDN'T LOOK AT ME TWICE, THE WAY I AM NOW
AND BESIDES, YOU NEVER OFFERED ME ANY CHANCES
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
SO NOW IT'S MY FAULT!?
I..
I SAW YOU GETTING MORE AND MORE IMMERSED IN THEATRE AND ACTING..

SO I THOUGHT...
THEATRE WAS ALL THAT MATTERED TO YOU NOW
AND THAT YOU'D LOST INTEREST IN ME
...!
AH, GEEZ! LIKE THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN!
I'M SORRY, I'M SUCH... AN IDIOT...!
Glomp
Again... when I'm with him...

I say things...
that I'd never normally admit to...
Why am I becoming like this...?
Nh...
Nh.
SAKURAGI-SAN...!
I LOVE YOU...
AH...
Hmmm
WAIT...
squish
stroke
stroke
HAH...
Nh
ah.
HAH...
ah.
Love...?

Aah... I think
I LOVE YOU...
S/KU-RAGI-SAN...
I feel the same...
push
IT'S SUR-PRISING, THOUGH.
WHAT IS?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THEATRE...
WHY NOT?
WELL, YOU ONLY STARTED IT ON IMPULSE...
I kinda feel responsible
HN, WELL, I GUESS.
BUT I'M TOTALLY INTO IT NOW...
NOT AS MUCH
AS I'M INTO YOU, THOUGH.
drop
How can you say such embarrassing things...
with a straight face?
Waah! I made you blush!

Turning Point second point ✱ END

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Liquid Eros!
AS LIQUID EROS MOVES INTO ANOTHER YEAR, OUR HEARTS, THOUGHTS
& PRAYERS ARE WITH EVERYONE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT EVENTS
IN JAPAN. LET US ALL KEEP MOVING FORWARD!

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ターニングポイント
前編
~third point~
Turning Point (First part)

ring-ring
UGH
ring-ring
ring-ring
ring-ring
click
...YES?
SAKURAGI SPEAKING
YEAH
OH, HEY, ENDO

SORRY TO CALL SO EARLY
It's fine what's up?
WELL, IT'S ABOUT IMAMURA.
Is he with you right now?
EH...?
...HE ...HE IS, ACTU-ALLY...
WHY...?
How did he know?!
drag
thud
I thought so!
Wow, that's a relief
These days, when I can't get hold of him, he always says
Oh I spent the night drinking over at "Sakuragi-san's Place"
zzz
It's been happening a lot, so
I called you, guessing he might be there again.
DON'T BE SO HONEST, STUPID...!
HOLD ON
I'LL PUT HIM ON
noogie
noogie
Ow
Owww

HUH!?
I-I'M SORRY, I'LL HEAD OVER RIGHT NOW!
Ima-mura!
Did you forget your audition!?
It starts at eleven, right?
Ima-mura's work has become pretty hectic recently.
rush rush
YOU TOLD ME IT STARTED AT ONE PM...
uwah uwah
I GOT THE TIME WRONG!
I HOPE I WON'T BE LATE
Ende's prediction turned out to be spot on.
HE COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE
I'D LIKE TO TRY BUILDING ON THAT TALENT
Thanks to that, Imamura has now become the rising star of our theatre company...
YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU HURRY.
HERE'S YOUR BAG.
THANK YOU!

step step
SAKURAGI-SAN
?
AH...!
TAKE CARE!
kiss
!
HEY...!
HURRY UP AND GO ALREADY!
FOR LUCK!
JUST FOR LUCK!
See you later!
GEEZ...
What's with him?
As for me,
I'm still a struggling playwright whose work doesn't sell.

YOU DID IT, IMAMURA!
YOU GOT THAT PART YOU AUDITIONED FOR!
HUH?
murmur
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE AUDITION...?
NOT JUST THAT, YOU'RE ONE OF THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS!
FOR REAL!?
YOU MEAN FOR THE NIGHT DRAMA ON CHUOU T V.?
Wah!
THAT'S THE ONE SHOWN AROUND ELEVEN PM, RIGHT?
THE NIGHT DRAMA ON CHUOU TV...
THAT'S AMAZING! CONGRATULATIONS!

badump badump
Hey, we're not that athletic!
Thanks, guys.
AWESOME! THIS IS THE FIRST BIG NEWS FOR US SINCE THE THEATRE COMPANY STARTED!
IF YOU APPEAR ON THAT SHOW, YOU'LL INSTANTLY BECOME MORE WELL KNOWN!
WELL DONE!
THAT TIME SLOT IS WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE GATEWAY TO SUCCESS FOR ASPIRING YOUNG ACTORS!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
CHEERS!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
BE-CAAA-AUSE ~~~
WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW COME THE GUEST OF HONOUR IS LOOKING SO DOWN...?
SAKU-RAGI-SAAAN!
HN?

ENDO-SAN SAID...
HE'S NOT LETTING ME TAKE PART IN THE UPCOMING PLAY
EH? HOW COME...?
HE SAID IT'S BECAUSE I'LL BE SO BUSY PREPARING FOR THE OTHER ROLE THAT I WON'T HAVE THE TIME TO SPARE
Eeek!?
NO WAY!
BUT IT'S A PLAY THAT YOU WROTE...!!
OH... I GUESS HE'S RIGHT
WELL, THAT'S THAT, THEN...
Y... YOU KNOW FULL WELL HOW MUCH I'VE LONGED FOR A ROLE IN ONE OF YOUR PLAYS!
AND NOW, WHEN I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE PART ~~~!!
LISTEN IT'S COMMON SENSE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO BIG JOBS
ARE YOU STILL SULKING, IMAMURA!?
YOU KNEW IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY WHEN YOU AUDITIONED FOR THE PART!
Eep!
yank

COME ON,
WALK STRAIGHT!
He's totally drunk
SAKURAGI-SAAAAN!
YOU UNGRATEFUL LOUT!
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD BE REJOICING AT THE FACT THAT YOU BEAT THEM ALL TO IT!
BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS LOADS OF COMPETITION, SO I DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY GET IT~~~!
WHY D'YOU THINK I STARTED ACTING INNA FIRST PLAAAACE~~~?
I'M GONNA TURN IT DOWN! I'LL TOTALLY TURN THAT PART DOWN~~~
QUIT BEING SO IRRESPONSIBLE, IDIOT!
thud
Uwah!

GET IT TOGETHER!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD ...
Ow
I DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING FAMOUS~~~
I JUST WANNA BE IN YOUR PLAAAAY!
IT'S PRETTY ARROGANT TO SAY YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING FAMOUS WHEN YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN HOW HARD IT IS TO NOT EARN ENOUGH TO MAKE A LIVING
BUT A BIG BREAK LIKE THIS MIGHT NEVER COME AGAIN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT IT LATER
RIGHT NOW, YOU MIGHT NOT REALISE JUST HOW VALUABLE A CHANCE LIKE THIS IS
YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL...
SO USE EVERY CHANCE AND SHOW ME HOW FAR YOU CAN GO

WHAT?
BUT...
I... I'M SCARED IT'LL STOP US FROM GETTING CLOSER...
YOU'RE THE REASON I STARTED ACTING...
thu-dump
BUT NOW IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING PULLED IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS...
...WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?
I'M HERE WITH YOU, AREN'T I?
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO ACT IN ONE OF MY PLAYS...
How rare
to see him like this
Normally...

he's always overflowing with optimism. It's like his one defining feature.
SAKURAGI-SAN...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE ME...
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, YOU WON'T TURN DOWN A PART IN MY PLAY, OKAY?
I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T!
I WAS JUST KIDDING.
NH, WAIT...
WAIT, I SAID NOT HERE...
NH!

LET'S JUST MOVE THIS...
TO THE BEDROOM...
hah
hah
push
AH...
NGH!
hah...
rub
stroke
NNH...
This isn't like him...
He must be starting to feel the pressure...?
HEY...
IT'LL... HURT MY BACK...
nh...
IF WE DO IT HERE...
LET'S MOVE...

thrust
AH!
UWAH!
Or is it
that he somehow
THAT...
STUPID....
DRUNK...!!!
tremble
senses my own insecurities ?
UH...
AH!
AH...
AH!
if that's true,

LOOK, LOOK!
IMAMURA-KUN'S ON!
He's pretty sharp...
The drama on Chuou TV became a smash hit,
and Imamura instantly became high in demand.
HE'S ALWAYS ON TV THESE DAYS!
LIKE VARIETY SHOWS AND STUFF
Wow in the prime time slot
HE'S PRETTY BOUNCY AND UPBEAT, SO HE DOES WELL IN THEM
WE DEFINITELY HAVE TO CAST HIM IN OUR NEXT PERFORMANCE...
Finally, we have a story to ouy name
mwahaha!
YOU SAID IT.
....

ring ring
HELLO?
Sakuragi-san?
It's me...
HEY
I'm sorry! It's about our plans for tonight..
They've suddenly told me that they need me for a meeting that's combined with a drinking party...
OH...
UM...
...That's okay. Nothing we can do about it.
I'LL DEFINITELY GIVE YOU A CALL TOMORROW
Yeah I'll want to hear from you
Till then Take care
Ah
beep
IMA-MURA-KUN?
COME ON HURRY UP
Ah
ON MY WAY!
I really am happy
that he's doing so well...
I'M AS EXCITED ABOUT HIS CAREER
AS IF IT WERE MY OWN...
However...

I'm sure his life will continue changing
He'll have to think about his future, his position, and all the choices he's faced with
He won't have the luxury to take it easy like he's done up to now
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER...
I guess the same goes for me
WE CAN KEEP THIS RELATIONSHIP GOING...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME OUT TONIGHT,
BUT HE WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO YOU
APOLOGIES FOR THE BAR SETTING
NOT AT ALL THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU AFTER SEEING THE DRAMA.
HE'S THE PRODUCER OF OUR STATION'S DRAMA DEPARTMENT.
SONADA'S THE NAME. NICE TO MEET YOU.
THANKS TO YOU, THE DRAMA'S BECOME SO POPULAR THAT WE'VE EVEN SECURED A DVD DEAL FOR IT.
I WANTED TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU ABOUT WHERE TO GO TO FROM HERE
HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON NEXT...?
OH
ACTUALLY I MIGHT BE GETTING A ROLE IN A NEW THEATRICAL PLAY.
SO I'LL BE DOING THAT.
THEATRE?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'RE AFFILIATED WITH A THEATRE COMPANY.
HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT REGISTERING WITH A PRODUCTION AGENCY?
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT FAR...

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME GOOD AGENCIES?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, REALLY!
Ah, sorry for making you four
BUT IT MUST BE TOUGH MANAGING YOUR SCHEDULE ALL BY YOURSELF
ACTUALLY... I'M TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH ONE OF THE PLAYWRIGHT'S WORKS...
MY ADMIRATION FOR HIM DROVE ME TO START ACTING IN THE FIRST PLACE...
Thanks for the drink
SO I'D LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON THEATRICAL WORK IN THE FUTURE...
I'M SORRY TO TURN DOWN YOUR KIND OFFER
OH...
MAY I ASK WHAT HIS NAME IS?
I'D LIKE TO GO SEE ONE OF HIS PLAYS MYSELF
Eh?
PLEASE, DO!!
HIS SCRIPTS REALLY ARE THE GREATEST.

THERE'S ACTUALLY ONE THAT'S BACK ON STAGE AGAIN NOW!
I'VE GOT TICKETS HERE. SO PLEASE GO SEE IT!
OH? THANK YOU.
SAKURAGI-SAN'S PLAYS CAN SEEM A BIT DETACHED AT FIRST, BUT
...ACTUALLY, DEEP MEANING AND REAL PASSION HIDES BENEATH THE SURFACE...
I SEE ...
I'll end up crying no matter how often I watch it!
And then—
AND ALSO, Y'KNOW...
IT'S NOT JUST THE SCRIPTS HE WRITES!
SAKURAGI-SAN HIMSELF IS SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON...!!
TEARY
uuuh
BUT... EVEN THOUGH I LOVE HIM SO MUCH...
HE STILL HASN'T LET ME ACT IN ONE OF HIS PLAYS!
YOU DON'T SAY?
ISN'T THAT CRUEL OF HIM!?
AND ALSO... THESE DAYS
SAKURAGI-SAN'S BEEN REALLY COLD TO MEEEE!
He's drunk
waah
Yeah
Unaaa
WHYYY? TELL ME WHY, SAKURAGI-SAAAAAN ~~~

You must really love this writer
I totally do
uuh
uuh
Huh ?
Seems to me you'd jump at the chance to appear in pretty much anything he's written
Well, yeah.
Eh~♪
If it's Sakuragi-san's script,
I'd take on any role~~~
Would you, now...
Hmm

ding dong
SAKURAGI-SAN...?
ding dong
?
ding dong
SAKURAGI-SAN?
HELLOOO...
ding dong
open
"!"
AH!
SORRY FOR COMING SO LATE
...SAKURAGI-SAN?
IT'S FINE
COME ON IN
EH
thud
WHAT'S THIS...?
SOMEHOW...
HE'S MAD..?
LISTEN
but I haven't seen him in so long

TODAY, AT REHEARSALS,
SOMEONE CALLED SONADA-SAN FROM CHUOU TV CAME TO SEE ME
OH, REALLY?
HE SAW THAT PLAY OF MINE THAT'S BACK ON STAGE AT THE MOMENT
HE SAID YOU GAVE HIM TICKETS
I-I DID
HE ASKED ME IF I'D BE INTERESTED IN WRITING THE SCRIPT FOR A NEW DRAMA
AND WHAT DID HE--?
A BUSINESS PROPOSAL, IF YOU LIKE
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
I KNEW IT!
I KNEW THAT, IF HE'D SEE THE PLAY, HE'D REALISE HOW GREAT YOUR WORK IS!
IMA-MURA --

HUH?
WHAT DID YOU TELL SONADA-SAN?
WHAT DID I...?
YES BUT
WHY WOULD YOU COME TO ME FOR THIS?
HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO READ THE DRAFT OUTLINE THAT I SENT YOU EARLIER?
I ADMIT THE FEEL OF THIS STORY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN OF YOUR WORK.
BUT TO MY MIND, THAT CONTRAST COULD ACTUALLY MAKE IT INTRIGUING TO WATCH.
THIS DOESN'T REALLY FIT MY WRITING STYLE...

BESIDES,
I'M HOPING TO CAST IMAMURA-KUN FROM YOUR THEATRE COMPANY.
HE SEEMS KEEN TO ACT IN ANYTHING YOU WRITE... LIKE IT'S HIS GREATEST WISH.
EH ?
IT APPEARS HE'S REALLY IN LOVE WITH YOUR WORK. WE'RE EAGER TO ACCOMMODATE THAT WISH...
Of course we've also impressed by what we've seen of your work
DID YOU...
TELL HIM THAT YOU'D ACT IN HIS DRAMA
...S LONG AS I WROTE THE SCRIPT FOR IT?

HUUH?
YOU'RE STILL TOO MUCH OF A NEWBIE TO BARTER OVER ROLES LIKE THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN PLACE, DO YOU!?
I I NEVER SAID THAT TO HIM
THEN WHAT DID YOU SAY?
ARE YOU TELLING ME IT'S JUST HIS MISUNDER-STANDING?
WHAT DID I SAY...?
I'D HAD A BIT TO DRINK THAT EVENING
SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER ALL THAT CLEARLY
SO IT WAS ALL DOWN TO ALCOHOL!?
WELL, IN THAT CASE IT WAS JUST FRIVOLOUS CHATTER FROM YOU
HE MUST'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUS
B-BUT I DON'T REMEMBER BARTERING FOR ANY ROLES!

THAT MUCH I DO REMEMBER!
I ONLY TOLD HIM HOW AMAZING I THINK YOU ARE, SAKURAGI-SAN
I HATE MIXING WORK WITH MY PRIVATE LIFE LIKE THIS!!
BUT NOW IT'S RESULTED IN HIM OFFERING US A JOB TOGETHER!
SAKURAGI-SAN
IN TRUTH, I'D BE PRETTY INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THIS JOB
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M IN A POSITION TO BE PICKY ABOUT WHAT I TAKE ON

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO THINK OF IT THAT WAY?
HE OBVIOUSLY RESPECTS YOUR SKILLS, OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU!
HAH?
BUT I'M GOING TO TURN THE OFFER DOWN.
SINCE IT'S A JOB THAT I DIDN'T EARN BY OWN SKILLS
NO WAY...
SAKURAGI-SAN...!
THINK ABOUT IT!
SONADA-SAN WENT TO SEE YOUR PLAY, DIDN'T HE?

PLEASE STOP BEING SO SUSPICIOUS!!
MAYBE IT WAS ME WHO FIRST TIPPED HIM OFF, BUT
ULTIMATELY WASN'T IT THE QUALITY OF YOUR OWN WORK THAT MADE HIM DECIDE?
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!
HAVE YOU EVEN SEEN THE DRAFT OUTLINE?
YOU KEEP TELLING ME NOT TO LET A SINGLE CHANCE PASS ME BY...
BUT NOW YOU'RE PLANNING ON LETTING THIS OPPORTUNITY GO JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BEING STUBBORN ABOUT IT!?
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE TO TAKE ON THIS JOB.
BUT I HAVE MY PRIDE!

SNAP
!
!
If you want to do it, just accept the offer!
Don't let your stupid pride get in the way.
Yeah, well, sorry if it seems that stupid to you!!

But being reduced to picking up leftover jobs thanks to my boyfriend's connections
is just too pathetic for words!
SAKU
Slam
What a disgrace.
WAIT—
SAKURAGI-SAN!
SAKURAGI-SAN!

Turning Point
third point first half ✱ END

Turning Point ch5
Takanaga Hinako

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ターニングポイント 後編

～third point～

Turning Point (second half)

UM,
GOOD MORNING
Hiya
OH, MORNING.
UM
IS SAKURAGI-SAN IN TODAY...?
SAKU-RAGI?

OH... HE WON'T BE COMING FOR A WHILE.
HE'S BUSY WITH OTHER WORK RIGHT NOW.
Ah
OH, RIGHT...
?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CAN STILL REACH HIM AT HOME
IF IT'S URGENT JUST CALL HIM.
EH?
NO—
HUH?
HE WON'T LET ME INTO HIS APARTMENT, EITHER...
HE'S NOT ANSWERING MY CALLS...

What?? You're turning my offer down...? But why, Sakuragi-san!?
I'M SORRY... IT JUST DOESN'T FIT INTO MY SCHEDULE RIGHT NOW...
I'm sure we could work something out.
...Or do you really think this project isn't down your alley?
THAT'S NOT IT...
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY BUT...
No, wait. Please don't be so hasty...
Could we meet one more time to talk it over?

Maybe we can work something out if you let me know your thoughts
FINE
NOTHING FOR IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GO AROUND PISSING OFF IMAMURA'S WORK CONTACTS.
click
I BET THEY THINK THEY NEED ME IN ORDER TO CAST IMAMURA
HOW CAN I SET THEM STRAIGHT...?
SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON...?

IS HE REALLY GOING TO TURN THE OFFER DOWN?
I KNOW...
SAKURAGI NEVER MENTIONED IT TO ME...
I HAD NO IDEA
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEY CHOSE SAKURAGI-SAN BASED ON HIS OWN ABILITIES...
BUT WE JUST WON'T BELIEVE THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY THE STUDIO WOULD THINK I WAS NEGOTIATING FOR THE ROLE.
I MEAN I'M STILL A NEWBIE, Y'KNOW?
THAT MAN NEVER CHANGES...
HONESTLY...
I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES I'VE ARGUED WITH HIM OVER SIMILAR SITUATIONS
sigh
NEVER CHANGES...?

WELL, BACK THEN, ONE OF THE SPONSORS WAS THREATENING TO DROP US
TO BE HONEST, THEY WERE MAKING SOME RIDICULOUS DEMANDS OF HIM.
I WAS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, CAUGHT BETWEEN BOTH SIDES.
THINGS GOT HEATED BETWEEN US,
AND HE JUST SNAPPED...
EH...
REALLY?
YOU MUST'VE NOTICED THAT HE'S NOT ONE TO COMPROMISE, RIGHT...?
HE WORKS FREELANCE NOW BUT HE USED TO BE UNDER AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH US
BUT IT ALL BLEW UP AND HE LEFT
...
So that's what happened
IF ONLY HE WERE A LITTLE MORE BUSINESS-MINDED...
I guess freelancing worked out for him, so it's okay
HE'S GOT PLENTY OF TALENT.
WHEN THINGS CALMED DOWN, I ASKED HIM TO COME BACK BUT TO NO AVAIL...

I WONDER HOW I CAN MAKE SAKURAGI-SAN SEE THAT HE GOT IT ALL WRONG...
IT WON'T BE EASY FOR SOMEONE AS PROUD AS HE IS, HE'S GOT REMARKABLY LOW SELF-ESTEEM...
THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ADVICE TODAY.
NO WORRIES I'LL TRY TALKING TO HIM THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, TOO
BOW.
Don't stress too much!
I THOUGHT HE WAS ON THE RIGHT PATH, BUT...
SEEMED TO HELP HIM FINALLY LOOSEN UP AGAIN...
SPENDING TIME WITH SOMEONE OPTIMISTIC LIKE YOU
EH?
...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT, EVEN IF SAKURAGI DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM YOU BECAUSE OF THIS, DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT.

YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT HE CAN BE. IF YOU FALL OUT WITH HIM ONCE, WELL...
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON YOUR BIG CHANCE BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT HIM.
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU'RE A RISING STAR NOW.
YOU HAVE TO SET ASIDE OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND PUT YOURSELF FIRST RIGHT NOW.
...
Sakuragi-san is...
distancing himself...?

I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT AGAIN
NO, I SHOULD BE APOLOGISING...
FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER...
NO, WAIT, LET'S NOT RUSH ANYTHING HERE...
WHY DON'T WE START BY TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE STUDIO CAN DO TO MEET YOUR WISHES...?
IT'S NOT ABOUT MY WISHES...
I JUST DON'T THINK I'M SUITED TO THIS KIND OF PROJECT...
Damn...
What a pain

I already told him as bluntly as I could... even if I don't write the script,
Imamura will still take the job...
How can I make it any clear...?
WE'RE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED...
OH, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT TILL YOU TRY.
rustle
rustle
SURELY, YOU CAN ASK SOME OTHER WRITER WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN THIS GENRE RATHER THAN PUTTING IN ALL THIS TIME AND EFFORT WITH ME.
earnest
DEFINITELY NOT!
I DON'T INTEND TO FOLLOW THE OLD CONVENTIONS WITH THIS ONE!
THAT'S THE THOUGHT THAT STRUCK ME WHEN I SAW YOUR PLAY!
What?
rustle
ACTUALLY, I'VE BROUGHT ALONG ANOTHER PROJECT FOR YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT TODAY.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS ONE CLOSER TO YOUR ORIGINAL STYLE
Hm...?

I UNDERSTAND YOU MAY FEEL RELUCTANT SINCE YOU'VE NEVER WRITTEN ANYTHING FOR TV, SAKURAGI-SAN.
SO AFTER RECONSIDERING THE SITUATION, I THOUGHT WE COULD START YOU OFF WITH THE GENRE THAT YOU'RE BEST AT..
AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT YOU CAN DO!!
AH... I'M SORRY, I WAS GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.
ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN EVERYONE'S ATTENTION WITH YOUR DEBUT SCRIPT, WE'LL SWOOP IN WITH THE ORIGINAL PROJECT!!
What a great lead-in!!
BUT,
YOU SEE HOW KEEN WE ARE TO GET YOU INVOLVED.
THAT NEW PROJECT YOU MENTIONED,
WOULD THAT BE WITH IMAMURA AS WELL—?
WE'LL GET THEM TOTALLY HOOKED ON YOUR WORK!
ER, LISTEN...
SONODA-SAN—

HUH?
NO, THIS ONE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IMAMURA-KUN
YOU MEAN, EVEN WHEN I'M NOT PART OF A SET,
YOU STILL WANT ME—?
MUTTER MUTTER
EXCUSE ME?
hah
AH...

YOU WERE REJECTING THE OFFER...?
AAH. DO YOU MEAN...
THAT WAS THE REASON
...!
Uwah
I

...He's not calling...
...
I KNOW I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO CALL HIM...
BUT STILL...
...
How can I face him
after all this?..
...
A part of me felt that one way or the other, we wouldn't last long
...
This way neither of us will get hurt too deeply..
If it has to end anyway, it might be easeer to just drift apart like this..
Could this be for the best ?

IMAMURA
Can I
gasp
ring-ring
ring-ring
HELLO?
SAKURAGI SPEAKING
Ah!
Thank goodness, you picked up
Please don't hang up! Just hear me out for a second!
WAIT
LISTEN, IMAMURA
IMAMURA

No way!
bzzzz
click
HEY!
I'm coming over right now! I've got some really important stuff to say, so will you see me? It won't take long.
Don't run away, okay? I'll be over right away! Wait for me! 'kay?
IMAMURA,
LISTEN TO ME—
!
ding-dong ding-dong ding-dong ding-dong
open
IMA...
SAKURAGI-SAN, THANK GOD!
LISTEN,
I...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
I KNOW THAT EVEN WITHOUT ME,
SONODA-SAN WILL STILL WANT TO USE YOU!
WHA...?
My mind's made up!
You might not agree with my choice, but...
I... I'm going to turn down Sonoda-san's offer!
OF COURSE I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM TO DO THAT OR ANYTHING, SO DON'T MISUNDERSTAND.
...!
BUT THIS WAY... YOU'LL STOP DOUBTING THAT YOUR OWN ABILITIES GOT YOU THE OFFER, RIGHT...?
I WISH...
YOU COULD HAVE A BIT MORE FAITH—

FAITH IN ME,
AND FAITH IN YOURSELF...
IMA-MURA...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M BEING FRIVOLOUS ABOUT THE ROLE, EITHER.
I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOST OPPORTUNITY!
SO PLEASE LET ME GO THROUGH WITH THIS
THAT'S ALL..

SAKU...
IT'S ALRIGHT, ALREADY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF THAT...
I never
I can't hear you...
WHAT? EH?
wanted you to go that far

I said it's alright already!!
I talked it all through with Sonoda-san!
Huh?
When?
You did?
Really!?
Yester-day...
A-and ?
Well...
Imamura is always so resolute and true
so much that it scares me.
So in other words... you realised it was all just a misunder-standing?
That's great!
Then, what about the offer ?
Yeah,
I accepted it

For real!?
That's awesome!!
Now we can finally work together on the same production!!
!
shove
DON'T BE STUPID.
YOU'RE BLOWING IT TOTALLY
Ah
Sorry!
It was just an impulse!
OUT OF PROPORTION!
SEE? SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
IT WAS YOUR OWN ABILITIES THAT GOT YOU NOTICED!
Guilt ling
ANYONE WHO READS YOUR SCRIPTS...

RECOGNISE HOW GREAT THEY ARE.
WILL INSTANTLY
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THAT FROM THE START!
IMAMURA,
I'M SORRY
EH?
I'M REALLY SORRY
THAT I WAS SO SUSPI-CIOUS
OH,
IT'S OKAY—

WHY DON'T WE END IT?
OUR RELATION-SHIP
HUH...?
HUUH!?
WHY? ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
IT'S NOT SUDDEN
I'VE BEEN THINKING IT FOR A WHILE.
BUT... HUH?
WH-WHY?
WHY?
BECAUSE I HATE THE THOUGHT OF BEING THE ONE THING HOLDING YOU BACK!!
I'M HAPPY THAT YOUR WORK IS GOING SO WELL. I'M 100% BEHIND YOU.
AND YET I CAN'T HELP BEING LIKE THIS... I JERK YOU AROUND,
...SUSPECT. YOU...

I LOSE FAITH IN MYSELF WHILE ENVYING YOUR SUCCESS
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU FIND SOMEONE AS STUPIDLY SELF-INVOLVED AS ME
I GET CYNICAL AND SAY HARSH THINGS
DON'T SAY THAT...!! EVERYONE HAS UPS AND DOWNS!
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU FIGURE OUT THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING ON YOUR PART?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO BREAK UP OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...!
IT'S TOO HARD TO BE WITH YOU
WHILE I'M HATING MYSELF LIKE THIS
NO! NO!
I'M BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME..!!
IMAMURA

SAKURAGI-SAN!
I KNOW YOU DON'T FIND IT EASY TO BATTLE WITH YOUR EMOTIONS LIKE THIS,
BUT THAT'S PART OF WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.
YOU JUST HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, LIKE YOU ARE NOW.
I'LL ACCEPT YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE,
AND I'LL NEVER STOP LIKING YOU.
!
YOU SAY THAT YOU HATE YOURSELF
BUT I LOVE YOU. I JUST KNOW I'LL KEEP LOVING YOU TILL I DIE
THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER GIVE UP ON YOU IS IF YOU TELL ME
THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME.
...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME...?
SAKURAGI-SAN
I JUST WANTED TO END IT
BEFORE THE BUBBLE BURST, AND YOU LEFT ME
...!

...SAKURAGI-SAN.
NH...
Emotions are without form or substance.
With them, nothing is certain...
AH...

It's easy to laugh at those who make big promises based on feelings
UH... NH...
CAN YOU MOVE YOUR ARM?
I WANT TO SEE MORE OF YOUR FACE
Acting like they're so sure
without knowing what the future holds
NH...
YOUR VOICE, TOO
I WANT TO HEAR IT
MMH
I WANT TO KNOW EVERY LAST PART OF YOU, SAKURAGI-SAN...
Haah
Haah
THE MORE I KNOW YOU, THE DEEPER MY LOVE FOR YOU GROWS
ah
lick

It's much more difficult to believe in them
YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME?
THEN, LET'S TEST IT
YOU'LL JUST GET SICK AND TIRED OF ME
IF YOU SEE ALL THE HATEFUL PARTS OF ME
AH...
HOWEVER MANY YEARS IT MAY TAKE
SHOW ME ALL
thrust
BY YOU SHOWING ME EVERYTHING THAT'S INSIDE YOU
And yet,
without knowing why,
NNH...
AH
HAH
AH!
TRUST ME
DON'T WORRY
I'LL LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE
creak

I find myself believing him completely
I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS, YOU KNOW.
I don't wanna get out of it
YOU'RE STILL TALKING LIKE THAT?
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT IF YOU REGRET IT LATER.

I DON'T JUST MEAN THAT YOUR FEELINGS MIGHT CHANGE...
THERE'RE OTHER REASONS... YOU'RE A RISING STAR, SO...
IF ANYONE FOUND OUT THAT YOU HAVE A MALE LOVER...
WOULDN'T IT LEAD TO ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE...?
IT'S THINGS LIKE THAT...
OH, BUT
I'VE BEEN GAY FROM THE START, SO...
EVEN WITHOUT YOU, THEY'D FIND OUT EVENTUALLY
So breaking up's pointless right?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT?
Huh?
For some reason I thought he was the same as me!
used to be straight

Turning Point: Third point, half*End

Turning Point Extra
Takanaga Hinako

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2011 FEBRUARY

POSTCARD 藤谷あい

ESSAY TONO

隔月刊化5周年記念♥

第1弾

豪華描き下ろしイラスト&直筆サインカラー色紙プレゼント!!

カラー
聖の手料理、ご賞味あれ♡
隆巳ジロ

つれに吉報の予感が訪れ…
冬乃郁也
(原作:崎谷はるひ)

かんべあきら

富士山ひょうた
「不滅ノ宝儀」

タカツキノボル
北沢きょう
原ゆきは
果桐なにこ
あくた琳子

特別ふろく
ターニングポイント

ミニドラマCD
高永ひなこ
「ターニングポイント」
ふたりの休日 桜木編

CAST 桜木:前野智昭 今村:羽多野渉

シリーズ&初登場♪みさり
石原 理
桜遼
南条うくみ

水名瀬雅良
日向せいひょう
七金
いのうえまこと
ミズノ南水

餅野とお子
日吉丸晃
(原案:ごとうしのぶ)
緋色れーいち
嶋三
神葉理世

応募者全員サービス 表紙イラスト図書カード

描き下ろし
ふたりの休日
Extra
A Day Off Together
SAKURAGI-SAN!♡
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT...?
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO GO OUT WITHOUT COVERING MY FACE UP...
Imamura's career is going great.
He even told me he's been chosen to play the lead in an upcoming movie.
WELL, WHY DON'T WE GET SOME FOOD FIRST...?
OOH, ITALIAN! I WANNA EAT ITALIAN!

Oh okay
At least ditch the hat now that we're indoors
This tastes great!♪
He's quickly become one of the most prominent young actors around.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT HE'D MAKE IT THIS BIG...?
I'm the same as ever, but...
I guess working in television has that effect, but
I feel that since writing the television scripts, I've been able to take on a much broader range of work than before

These days, I find myself thinking
that my job is fun again
just like it was in the old days
MAYBE BECAUSE THE TV JOB
ADDED VARIETY TO MY WORK?
IT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED... REALLY THERAPEUTIC...
chuckle
WHAT'S WITH THE BIG GRIN?
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
IT'S NOTHING...
I wasn't grinning

Whisper
What?
Whisper
Who is it?
Isn't that...?
...
Yeah
The food was great!
COME ON.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
rattle
HUH?
LET'S GET SOME DESSERT BEFORE WE GO.
We still have time, right...?
!
ARGH, YOU SEE...?
EXCUSE ME...?
!
Huh? Where?
THEY'RE BOUND TO COME PESTER YOU.
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE TWO OVER THERE H VE RECOGNISED YOU.
HALF HALF

Eh?
SAKURAGI KEIGO-SAN, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SAKURAGI-SAN...!!
WOW, I KNEW IT!
I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOUR WORK!
I WENT TO SEE YOUR PRODUCTION OF "H.A.T." JUST THE OTHER DAY!
THIS IS SO AMAZING! I'D NEVER HAVE IMAGINED I'D MEET YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WHAT?
ME!?

WHEN I WATCHED YOUR INTERVIEW, YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR WORK MADE A REALLY DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME.
Yup! Yup!
I hardly ever make public appearances
HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
...!
I SAW YOU ON THE CREATORS' INTERVIEW THAT WAS SHOWN ON MHK TV NOT LONG AGO!
BESIDES, YOU'RE HANDSOME ENOUGH TO BE AN ACTOR YOURSELF, SAKURAGI-SAN!
I BECAME AN INSTANT FAN!
Hm?
OF COURSE, IF YOU LIKE...
COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
...!
I'll treasure it!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
NO, DON'T MENTION IT...

Good luck!
That's the first time
I was asked for my autograph in such a random place as this...
...
clack
He sounds just like a certain someone I know...
I'M ACTUALLY TRAINING TO BECOME AN ACTOR MYSELF!
I HOPE ONE DAY I'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO ACT IN SOMETHING YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN!
WOW.
haha
THAT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE.
RECEIVING THAT KIND OF ATTENTION...
NH?
...WHAT?
glower
Huh?
...DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
EH?

...WHA?
Y-YOU CAN'T JUST
LET ANY OLD RANDOM ACTOR
PLAY IN SOMETHING YOU WROTE, SAKURAGI-SAN...!
N-NOT WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOU...!!
BUT--!
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
COME ON.
WE REALLY NEED TO GET A MOVE ON.
SAKURAGI-SAN!

SAKURAGI-SAN LISTEN!
QUIT YELLING, OR THIS TIME YOU REALLY WILL BE FOUND OUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GETTING JEALOUS ABOUT SOME RANDOM PASSER-BY...
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LET HIM ACT FOR YOU...
BESIDES, DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MANY OTHER ACTORS I'VE USED TO ACT IN MY PLAYS UNTIL NOW...?
He sounded just like me
BUT...
THIS GUY WAS TOO SIMILAR TO ME
WHAT IF...
YOU BECOME MORE AND MORE POPULAR
WITHOUT EVER GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH YOU...?
...

EH...
EH?
AH!
Y-YES!
HUH?
I MEAN, OF COURSE IT IS!
MY SCRIPTS DON'T BELONG TO ANY ONE PERSON.
BUT I'M YOURS. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH...?
What the hell am I saying!?
bluuush
WAIT!
PRETEND I DIDN'T JUST SAY THAT!
step step step
HUH? WHY?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE IT BACK!

Postscript

Hi everyone and welcome to any new readers. To regular readers, it's great to see you again. This is Takanaga Hinako and I'd like to say a big thank you for choosing to read *Turning Point*. I hope you enjoyed the story!

The first part of this story was published back in 2005, and the later instalments were published at roughly 1 year intervals. So it took around... what, 4 years!? for the full comic to be completed. Which is why the drawing style is so different at the beginning of the story from the end of it! Saying that, even when a series is drawn over a shorter span it usually takes around a year for a comic to be completed, so I find myself thinking "my drawings at the beginning look so old" almost every single time. But it's especially noticeable in something that took 4 years to complete. Since my debut, the number of years I've been working as a mangaka have reached double figures, so you'd think I'd have settled into a consistent drawing style by now. But I wouldn't want to settle into a crappy style, so I keep trying to improve myself. But wow, don't Sakuragi's eyebrows look thick in the earlier chapters...! I guess I was trying to make him look like quite a masculine character (to me, anyway). But as time went on and the character was fleshed out into this serious minded person with a strong pessimistic streak I stopped trying to draw him overly masculine. He turned out with that personality because I really wanted to draw a story of someone negative meeting his total opposite, which changes the way he views the world as a result. But since he starts off so cynical I guess I wanted him to at least look cool on the outside. To be honest, I can't remember what my thought process was 4 years ago...! I mean, it's not like thick eyebrows equal manliness...anyway!

Another thing to mention is Imamura's first name. To be honest, I don't think it fits him all that well. Not that there's anything wrong with the name "Toshiki" in itself- it's just that I don't think it really suits his personality -- even my editor kept complaining that Toshiki just sounds wrong for him. Besides... and this is going to make me sound old, but doesn't Toshiki make you think of Carlos Toshiki from the 1980's pop band Omega Tribe...? (I wonder how many of you who read this still remember that band?) Well anyway. Toshiki sounds more like a name for a smart, no-nonsense type of man rather than the puppy dog character that we have here. In fact, I should've given him a doggy name like Pochi or Shiro* (laugh). So please feel free to switch his name to the Pochi-version or Shiro-version when you read it next. I'm sure it'll be fun!

Or you can stick with Toshiki. It's totally up to you!

Well, I've rambled on for too long already, so I'll stop here. Thanks to my editor and apologies for always causing so much trouble. Heartfelt thanks to my assistants, friends, and family. And above all, huge thanks to all my readers!! I really hope you enjoyed the story! Well then, until next time!

Takanaga Hinako

*TN: Stereotypical Japanese dog names. English equivalents would be Fido / Rover, etc.

Takanaga Hinako's home page "ANAGURANZ"
http://anaguranz.com/

ダリアコミックスをお買い上げいただきましてありがとうございます。この本を読んでのご感見・ご感想・ファンレターをお待ちしております。

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